

**UNAPPROVED D R A F T**

**VIRGINIA BOARD OF COUNSELING  
INFORMAL CONFERENCE COMMITTEE  
THURSDAY, JUNE 4, 2009  
MINUTES**

- CALL TO ORDER:** An Informal Conference Committee (“Committee”) of the Board of Counseling (“Board”) convened on Thursday, June 4, 2009, at 10:55 a.m., at the Department of Health Professions, Perimeter Center, 9960 Mayland Drive, Richmond, VA.
- MEMBERS PRESENT:** Mary Lou Argow, LPC, MFT, LSATP, Chair  
Charles McAdams, Ed.D., LPC, MFT
- STAFF PRESENT:** Evelyn B. Brown, Executive Director  
Patricia L. Larimer, Deputy Executive Director  
Peter Opper, Adjudication Specialist  
Diana L. Pollick, Operations Manager
- MATTER SCHEDULED:** Benjamin Thomson, LPC Applicant  
Case No.: 125283
- DISCUSSION:** Mr. Thomson appeared before the Committee in person in accordance with a Notice of the Board dated May 7, 2009, to consider his application for licensure as a Professional Counselor, and to inquire into allegations that grounds exist to deny his application. Mr. Thomson was not represented by counsel. The Committee fully discussed the allegations contained in the notice with Mr. Thomson.
- CLOSED SESSION:** Upon a motion by Dr. McAdams and duly seconded by Ms. Argow, the Committee voted to convene a closed meeting pursuant to § 2.2-3711(A)(27) of the Code of Virginia for the purpose of deliberation in the matter of Benjamin Thomson. Additionally, he moved that Ms. Brown, Ms. Larimer, Mr. Opper, Ms. Pollick and Ms. Jones attend the closed meeting, because their presence in the closed meeting was deemed necessary and would aid the Committee in its deliberations.
- RECONVENE:** Having certified that the matters discussed in the preceding closed session met the requirements of § 2.2-3712 of the Code, the Committee reconvened in open session and announced its recommendations.

**DECISION:**

Upon a motion by Dr. McAdams, and duly seconded by Ms. Argow, the Committee made certain recommended Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law, and voted to recommend to the Board that Mr. Thomson's Master of Science degree from the Department of Psychology at Capella University does not appear to prepare individuals to practice counseling and counseling treatment interventions as defined in §54.1-3500 of the Code and that his application for licensure as a Professional Counselor be denied.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

The Committee adjourned at 11:45 a.m.

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Mary Lou Argow, Chair

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Evelyn B. Brown, Executive Director

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Date

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Date